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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/679,134	DURLAM ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tan T. Nguyen	2827	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (~~OR REMAINS~~) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed on October 2, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-31.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

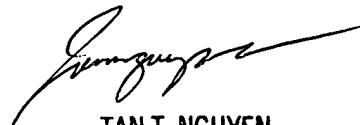
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>10/03; 11/04</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413);
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|---|



**TAN T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2500**

1. The Information Disclosure Statements submitted by Applicants on October 2, 2003 and November 3, 2004 have been received and fully considered.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Vincent B. Ingrassia on February 17, 2005.
3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Claims 32-36 have been canceled.

In claim 17, line 1, the number "13" has been changed to --16--.

In claim 18, line 1, the number "13" has been changed to --16--.

In claim 21, line 1, the number "18" has been changed to --19--.

In claim 24, line 1, the number "18" has been changed to --23--.

In claim 25, line 1, the number "18" has been changed to --24--.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art to the present invention is Iwata (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0161197). Iwata et al. disclosed a magnetic random access memory comprising a plurality of read blocks, wherein each read block includes a plurality of MTJ elements coupled to a plurality of write word lines, respectively, and a common read word line. Iwata failed to show or suggest the limitation of a first ganged memory cell having a first plurality of memory cells that include a MTJ, excluding an isolation device, and connected in series with other memory cells of the first ganged

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memory cells as claimed in claims 19-25; or the limitation of a first memory consisting of a first MTJ, and a second memory cell at least partially formed a first ganged memory cell with the first memory cell and consisting of a second MTJ that is connected in series with the first memory cell as claimed in claims 16-18 and 23-25. The prior art also failed to show or suggest a method of reading an MTJ in a ganged memory cell of an MRAM having steps of toggling the MTJ in the ganged memory cell, determining a second electrical value that is partially associated with the resistance of the ganged memory cell after the toggling of the MTJ.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tan T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1789. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 07:00 AM to 03:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoai Ho, can be reached at (571) 272-1777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Nguyen', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Tan T. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2827
February 17, 2005